

U.S. Pat. Appl. Ser. No. 10/720,368

Docket No. 056635/0170421

Amendment and response to 11/29/2005 Office Action

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. In the Office Action mailed November 29, 2005, claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claims 1, 2, 15, 16, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,681,004 (Lau). Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lau in view of U.S. Pat. No. 3,147,763 (Morton). Claims 10, 11, and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lau in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,929,021 (Cavenagh).

Claims 17, 19, and 20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 3-6, 8, 9, 12, and 14 are indicated as being allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

I. Objections

The Abstract is objected to because it exceeds 150 words. Claim 1 is objected to because of a typographical error wherein the word "valve" in line 5 was inadvertently substituted for the word "hole". The Applicant has amended the Abstract to be less than 150 words. Claim 1 has been cancelled, but the required correction has been incorporated into newly independent claim 3. No new matter has been added by these amendments. Entry of these amendments and withdrawal of the objections is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 17, 19, and 20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 20 has now been cancelled. Claim 17 has been rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the original base claim and any intervening claims. No new matter has been added by this amendment. Entry of the amendment and withdrawal of the objection to claim 17 is therefore respectfully requested. Because claim 19 depends from newly independent claim 17, which is now in condition for allowance, claim 19 is now in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the objection to claim 19 is therefore respectfully requested.

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II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph

Claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. In particular, claim 1 is rejected as indefinite "because of the screw valve in line 3 of the claim, a safety valve and a screw cap together does not make a screw valve." Claim 10 is rejected as indefinite because of the word "may" in line 7. Claim 12 is rejected as indefinite "because of 'safety valve and check valve' in lines 1 and 2, the term safety valve is a safety valve because of the check valve and to separate the two as in claim 12 is indefinite." Claims 2-9, 11, and 13-14 are rejected for depending on a rejected base claim.

Claims 1 and 10 have been cancelled, but the required corrections have been incorporated into newly independent claims 3 and 12. Claims 3 and 12, indicated as being allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under this section, have now been rewritten to independent form and thus are no longer dependent upon a rejected base claim. The corrections required for claims 1 and 10 have been incorporated into claims 3 and 12. Claim 12 has been further amended to clarify that the check valve is part of, not separate from, the safety valve. No new matter has been added by these amendments. Entry of these amendments and reconsideration